(a) to (c) There is no proposal with the Government at this stage for starting a five year integrated programme either in IIT or any other engineering colleges with specific emphasis on aircraft mantenance enginering. No specific request or demand for such a course has so far been received.

Privatisation of Airlines

970. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Govrenent's attention has been drawn to a news item which appeared in the Hindustan Times dated 15th December, 1986 under the caption Tata group recommends airlines privatisation; if so, the details thereof; and

(b) what action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir. This suggestion was made by the group as one of the measures to meet the resource requirement of Civil Aviation Sector.

(b) The recommendation of the group is being considered by the Steering Committee constituted by the Planning Commission with a view to preparing a long term plan for the development of transport.

Air India Airbus accident at Trivandrum airport

971. SHRI SURESH KAMADI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an Air India Airbus from Abu-Dhabi had a providential escape when the tyre of the aircraft burst and went up in flames after touch down at Trivandrum airport on 21st December, 1986;

(b) whether any passengers were injured; and

(c) what steps have been taken to avoid such accidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Air India Airbus aircraft VT-EHQ operating scheduled flight AI-930 (Dubai-Trivandrum) made a safe landing at Trivandrum airport on 21-12-86. After landing fire was observed on No. 4 wheel brake assembly which was extinguished by airport safety services.

(b) During evacuation 25 passengers received minor injuries and were treated by the airport doctor and discharged after first-aid. No passenger was removed to hospital for treatment.

(c) Remedial measures will be taken to avoid such incidents in future after the investigation report into the incident becomes available.

972. [*Transferred to the 12 March, 1987*].

Digital Exchange Equipment from Mankapur factory

973. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the quantity of the supply of Digital exchange equipment from Mankapur factory and how many exchanges are to be commissioned in 1986-87 and 1987-88 against the target set by the Department;

(b) what are the remedial measures taken by the Department to bridge the shortfall to keep up with the growing demands; and

(c) whether Government propose to import this equipment to augment the supply and if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a)

(a) (i) 1,18,000 lines of digital exchange equipment are to be supplied by Mankapur factory in supply programme of 1986-87; these supplies are likely to be completed by October, 1987.

(ii) This factory is also scheduled to supply 2,20,000 lines of the same equipment in the 1987-88 programme.

(iii) One exchange of this type is likely to be commissined during 1986-87 and Seven Exchanges are likely t obe commissioned during 1987-88.

(b) and (c) Constraints of availability of resources do not permit to fully keep up with the growing demands. Within the approved outlay of Rs. 40.10 crores for Seventh Five Year Plan, the requirements of digital electronic equipment will be met from Mankapur factory. If however, more funds become available, it will be possible to meet the damends to a greater extent and the required additional equipment, if not available from Mankapur, could be imported.

Computerisation of Recording of S.T.D. Calls

974. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present method used by the P&T Department for monitoring of calls, both local and STD;

(b) whether computerisation of recording of STD calls is likely to be introduced in a phased programme; and

(c) if so, by when the metro, major and minor telephone districts will be computerised for ticketless trunk working and other essential services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) The present method for monitoring of local calls is to measure 'percentage of call completion rate' on sample basis i.e. percentage of calls which are completed by dialling free test numbers. The sample size is determined by the size of the telephone system and the number of sample calls is such as to give a confidence level of higher than 85%.

Similarly, the performance of STD traffic is monitored by making sample S.T.D. calls for 1-link and 2-link stations.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The metro, major and minor Telephone Districts are proposed to be computerised for ticketless trunk working by 1990. Similarly computerisation of Directory Enquiry Service at the Metro, Major and Minor Telephone Districts is also expected to be completed by 1990.

Super Fast Railway Train between Hyderabad and Ahmedabad

975. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that he has made an announcement in Hyderabad recently that a new weekly train will be introduced between Hyderabad and Ahmedabad;

(b) if so, by when it is likely to start operating and what will be its frequency during a week from both the stations and the time likely to be taken by it to reach either destination; and

(c) whether a decision has also been taken to introduce a separate superfast train between Ahmedabad and Pune or the same train between Hyderabad and Ahmedabad will also connect Pune?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) From April, 1987, the train will run once a week. The train will take about 27 hrs. in either direction.